




DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.  
Director

**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
425 Shatto Place – Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5802

June 15, 2005

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From: David Sanders, Ph.D.   
Director

**EXTENSION REQUEST: MARCH 15, 2005 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #2:  
HOLLYGROVE AND GROUP HOME TRANSITION/RATE CARE SETTING**

At the March 15, 2005 Board meeting the Board directed:

- The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to establish a "Children's Group Home Workgroup", in accordance with the "Katie A." settlement, which will consist of representatives from, but not limited to DCFS, Probation, Mental Health (DMH) and other relevant group home providers and consumers, to develop an array of implementation and transition strategies, including a proposed timeline for implementation, to service children with the goal of stability and permanency.
- DCFS and DMH to report back to the Board within 90 days on how the County can maintain and better utilize the resources of agencies, such as Hollygrove, when it decreases reliance on such agencies for residential placement of children; the status on the proposal made on modifying the rate setting structure for group homes, including potential legislative changes that would positively impact this situation; and recommendations and findings from the "Children's Group Home Workgroup".

On April 14, 2005, DCFS conducted a Group Home meeting for all providers. Representatives from DCFS, DMH, Probation and over 100 representatives from group home programs attended the meeting. Following the meeting a Group Home Work Group was convened, which includes representatives from DCFS, DMH, Probation, 16 large and small group home agencies representing various areas of Los Angeles County, the Commission for Children and Family Services, and emancipated youth.

The Group Home Work Group began meeting on April 26, 2005 and has met a total of six times. The goal has been to initiate discussions regarding the development of models and strategies by which residential care programs can continue to provide valuable services and treatment for children and families; and to provide suggestions for rate structure reform and funding resources. At this point, the consensus of the Work Group is that two more meetings will produce a more complete report with clearer consensus around strategies, models and rate reform proposals. Accordingly, the Department would like to request a brief extension of three weeks for submission of this Board report.

Unless otherwise directed, I will proceed with a new Board report submission date of Tuesday, July 5, 2005. If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Manager, Board Relations Section at (213) 351-5530.

DS:LP:ltj

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors